

Remarks

I. Status

In the Final Office Action dated October 17, 2008, the Examiner: (i) objected to claims 13 and 30; and (ii) rejected claims 13-17, 23, 25, and 27-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skinner, et al. (US Patent 6,721,740), in view of Shaw, et al. (US Patent 6,424,989); in view of Collins (US Patent 5,963,951); and further in view of Salam, et al (US Patent 6,594,654).

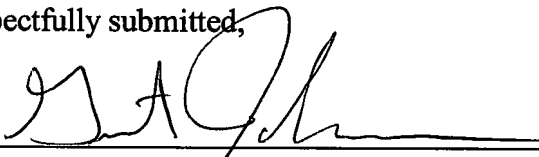
To reduce issues for appeal, Applicant has amended claim 30. Claims 13-17, 23, 25, and 27-36 will be pending after entry of this Amendment.

II. Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of each of the pending claims. Applicant also invites the Examiner to call Applicant's attorney at the number listed below if the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be helpful in expediting allowance of the present application.

Date: April 16, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Grant A. Johnson, Attorney
Registration No. 42,696

Telephone: (507)253-4660
Fax: (507)253-2382